

City of Baraboo
Parks & Recreation Commission
July 8, 2019 – Minutes

Present: Roy Franzen, Jim Francisco, Angela Witzcak, Craig Schlender, Chantel Steinhorst & Mike Hardy

Also Present: Wendy Grant (Park & Recreation Department Secretary), Tom Vetter (Intern), and 1 citizen

Franzen called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Legal Posting of the Agenda had been met. Francisco moved and Witzcak seconded approval of the June 10, 2019 minutes. Motion carried.

Witzcak moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Steinhorst. Motion carried.

Action Items: No one from BASCO was present to answer questions regarding the Senior Center proposal, however a revised copy was sent which included information requested from the last Commission meeting, which related to BASCO finances. Francisco reviewed current progress of the senior center plan committee and had hoped someone from BASCO was present. Witzcak noted that the proposal seems a little vague as to what exactly BASCO is asking for and what they intend to do with their present account balance. Hardy answered that it was his understanding that the balance was intended to be used for costs related to the management transfer and consolidating IT, phone and other operational costs. Hardy added that his understanding was that BASCO hopes to have a relationship similar to the Friends of the Baraboo Zoo, where the City budgets and manages the zoo, with FOBZ holding fundraisers to pay for special events and new construction/renovation of facilities. They would also like to provide suggestions for new programs and improvements. Franzen added that the Commission is in full support of the idea, but needs to see the proposal spelled out more clearly before it can be recommended to City Council. The item will be placed on the August agenda and BASCO representatives will be asked to attend to finalize the proposal.

Witzcak moved to approve the updated Field Use Policies and 2020 field use fees as presented. Seconded by Steinhorst. Motion carried.

A request from Thrivent Financial to waive Civic Center fees was considered. Franzen noted that we have received requests from non profits before but denied them. He noted the amount requested to waive is only \$17 and the City should not set a precedent of waiving fees. Motion by Franzen to deny the request for fee waiver, seconded by Witzcak. Motion carried.

Hardy stated that several residents had requested free or reduced admission for those who go to the pool to watch their kids-but not to swim. He presented a spreadsheet to the Commission comparing other policies with ours. All but 3 have the same policy as us and only one offers free admission. Several Commission members were concerned about the potential loss of revenue. Franzen stated that we are expected to bring in a certain amount of revenue for the pool. Hardy noted that even if people don't swim, they are still using lounge chairs & restrooms. The item failed due to lack of a motion. Hardy noted that Commissioners always have a right to revisit the request when fees are considered during the annual budget planning session.

A request to reduce pool fees for low income residents was heard by Commission. It was noted that Baraboo has one of the higher poverty rates in the area according to the 2010 census. Hardy stated that the Kuenzi Funds have been used to provide 50% scholarships for low income youth to allow for residents to participate in recreation programs, but the Commission in the past has elected not to extend the scholarship to the pool. The request stated that 3 communities in Eastern Wisconsin have a "sliding scale" allowing for lower income residents to pay a lower fee for passes. Hardy stated he could have staff look into this and bring back to the next meeting. The item was tabled until more information on possible funding can be found.

Staff Report: June revenues were \$42,439.59

Hardy reported that the Ochsner Park Centennial will be held August 10 from 11am-5pm, and 50+ members of the Ochsner family are expected. He encouraged Commission members to attend as well. The otter pools are 50% complete and design work on the beaver and owl exhibits. With the swimming season in full swing, quite a few complaints on the pool facility condition and aged equipment is being heard. The pool study was supposed to be done by now, but MSA has not completed yet, so it will have to be considered at next meeting.

Comments From Commissioners: Francisco stated that he had been approached by a non-resident who owns property in the City who has requested they be able to pay the resident rate. He requested the item be placed on the next month's agenda.

Witzcak noted that the Friends of the Skatepark group have raised almost \$4,000 of their \$15,000 goal to provide for renovations of the facility.

Next Regular Meeting: August 12, 2019.

Witzcak motioned to adjourn, Francisco seconded. Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Hardy, Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director